

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 138

DECEMBER, 1932.

Price 4d.



Review of the Month

PERHAPS this month our heading would have better been "Review of the Year." For next month we prefer to look forward.

And though Labour has progressed in 1932, we shall soon be done with the old year, and marching on, we hope, to Socialism, with the New Year, and new resolutions, to strengthen us. And so we take our retrospect now—perhaps profit from its lessons ere the dead year passes into the limbo of time. For we think the past twelve months have taught us something, and we hope the people have learned something, too. We believe they have,

What a time was this twelve months ago. Gone was our Government; died our somewhat hollow (under the circumstances) watchword, "on to a majority"; and dead, too, our hopes of speedy triumph. The whoops of the victors still filled the air, and disillusionment—the fate to-day of millions who voted "National"—was the predominant note in our ranks. Hope springs eternal in the human breast, but it was hard to woo in the depressing days of last December. And yet Socialists still hoped, and planned, and plodded on, though so many were the toad under the harrow. Good, there was hope. To-day, hope is unshamed; somehow, we feel it is justified. The long, long night is not yet through, but Socialists know, and feel it in their bones, that soon—England *will* arise!

We remarked last year that, arising out of the General Election, there had not once arisen the cry for heads upon a charger, so customary a demand in similar circumstances with other Parties. Indeed, the Movement

has been magnificently loyal to those who were loyal. Yet throughout the year the predominant note in all discussions affecting the late Government has been "never again." Nor, we think, can it be again, for, gone as is our Government and our seats—temporary losses—so gone too are the arch-conspirators, the arch-temporisers, and the arch-apostles of half-way houses, the disciples of the creed that a crumb is better than no bread at all; gone, too, is our faith in the immaculateness and infallibility of Popes. The Movement this year has been busy asserting its own mind. And we rather like that phase. But of all these things there is another more important: there is to-day a clear realisation that the only sound insurance against betrayal or weakness is the making and educating of more and yet more Socialists. On with the show!

The year opened with a clear and clarion call to the Movement and a definite challenge to the enemy. The National E.C. launched in January its Million Members Campaign, and organised a big series of mass conferences as a prelude to operations in the centres the conferences covered. The call was taken up and great strides in the membership figures resulted. The conferences had not, however, quite the effect intended, for the Movement wanted to discuss policy and air its views. But the campaign persisted, despite the fact that some local parties, too, apparently preferred inaction and words instead of deeds; to talk of Socialism rather than work for it. The striking fact, however, appeared that those Parties which wholeheartedly took up the campaign did most to restore the Party's fortunes, and achieved more for Socialism during the year than any half-a-dozen of the others. That lesson must not be lost now.

The spring elections passed without much incident, and summer saw the Movement perhaps too much involved in Means Test agitations. The agitation has achieved little that is tangible, but the public conscience has been aroused though insufficiently to turn the stony hearts of Mr. MacDonald's all-powerful hierarchy. Of bye-elections there have been few, but Wakefield and Wednesbury, though none too decisively, for this was summer, showed that the tide was flowing back. Unemployment crept up and up, the three million figure was passed, and threats to wages took form, leading to the great cotton dispute. The latter sorely tried Lancashire Labour Parties—though they nobly rose to a new responsibility and a fresh outlet for their energies. Railways next, and more national economy—the cup is filling.

Perhaps purely Party interest in the happenings of the summer months rightly centres round the growing demand in the Movement for a re-statement of Party policy, and the outcome of this demand. We ourselves have not been too keen on what appeared to be programmes based on present conditions, but the Movement was tired of "Labour and the Nation," if, as appeared, Mr. MacDonald and his friends could justify their past term of office by a reference to it as their objective. Anyway, it wanted something clear-cut, and something that said and meant Socialism. And after some few months of discussion and circulation of reports, the Leicester Conference met to select and dissect. It did both, quite impartially and fearlessly, and though some gaps remain for further filling in, Leicester set the seal on certain specific declarations and showed in unmistakable terms that Labour means Socialism, and means, in addition, to get it—and as quickly as may be. Leicester was a great Conference. One felt we were marching on.

On the heels of Leicester came the Municipal Elections, as the first real test of political opinion since the General Election. Labour had more than reason to be satisfied. The membership campaign, the summer agitations, the improvements in general organisation, and the invigoration of a fresh faith in the Socialist objective of

the Party, all had their share in contributing to a great victory, and in demonstrating a return to sanity on the part of the working class. Tactically, the defending party, in the majority of cases, Labour not only repulsed a strong attack, widely heralded by the Press, but carried its banners on to enemy ground in many a triumphant contest. In precise words it held all its own, and won 58 other seats into the bargain. Thus 1932 helps to wipe out a memory, and encourages for the coming New Year.

But this recital must not close without a mention of certain other activities. It has been a year of unprecedented national propaganda. There have been more speakers, for is not the flower of our army now in the field instead of in the House? Albeit with regrets that one mentions this, and that many ex-M.P.s must now seek their living by propaganda. The literature has also been unprecedented both in output and in quality. This arm of Labour has been now brought to a state of real efficiency, and it is for the Movement to employ the weapons at its command. Party organisation generally has received special attention and a series of conferences have been held. The year ends with a "Call to action" campaign—what better?—and preparations for another big push for membership. Is there not something in all this that conjures up the picture of a mighty advance and the thrilling words—

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The Big "All-in" Membership Campaign

NOW TO GET READY!

THIS issue is published on the threshold of the second great National Membership Campaign. Already local organisations have received circulars from the Head Office announcing this campaign, and already the Regional Officers of the Party are in touch with Divisional Parties in their areas for the purpose of tendering advice upon the campaign, and giving guidance upon its conduct.

To-day we look back upon the Million Membership Campaign of the early months of the year as something of a trial run. From one cause and another, principally the nearness of the campaign to the General Election, the Big Push was not everywhere carried on so energetically as it might have been under different circumstances. The campaign, too, was handicapped by the necessity for consultation with the Movement on policy questions following so catastrophic a result at the polls.

The new campaign has no trammels of this sort. It is to be a clear-cut Membership Campaign, and to-day with a Movement live and virile, recovered from its defeat, and, as the recent Municipal elections show, back to its old level, there is only the spectre of three million unemployed to shadow the efforts that are to be made. But even this should not unduly deter the campaign, and we shall have more to say upon this matter again.

Last Year's Beginning.

Before we start, however, a word as to the last campaign. There are some lessons to be learnt. The Party set out for a million members—one in seven, roughly, of its poll. Individual membership up to August 31st stood at 428,339, though this figure may be subject to some adjustment owing to the return of unsold cards. The nett increase of membership was roughly just over one hundred thousand.

Now, then, where are those doubting Thomases who, in their constituencies, threw cold water on this campaign in the early months of this year? We remember sneers and sulks in a few quarters where there ought to have been willing aid. Has the lesson been learnt?

In still more cases we observed bad local handling of the whole campaign,

and it is to these Parties we want to address a few first words.

During the last campaign we knew of some Parties which held up their campaign until a candidate was in the field, and indeed we already know of another Party where this course has been suggested for the present campaign.

Putting aside the loss in income, can it be said that the Parties who take this attitude have got the right idea of how Socialism is to be achieved? It is just stupidity for the whole army to stand still just because there is a vacant captaincy in one of the arms of service. Socialism will not be achieved just because we have Parliamentary candidates, or even because we win seats; it will be achieved when the people are converted to Socialism, and the ranks are organised for this purpose. Once again it is sheer folly to stand still because a candidate has not been selected.

A Lesson We Learnt.

But the commonest blunder was the lack of adequate preparation for the campaign, and the lack of adequate attention to the matter by local Executives. We profoundly believe that the circulars from Head Office on this matter and the subjects they raise cannot properly be dealt with at an ordinary Party meeting: a special meeting of the Party is absolutely essential to discuss this important matter, and to draw up plans in preparation, and for conducting the campaign. We urge this course upon every reader, and we ask readers who may not themselves be Divisional Secretaries to raise the question of an immediate special meeting wherever there is an attempt to deal with the campaign as a side issue in a meeting already full of other business.

Then, there were the people who made plans and did not carry them out; the people who soon got tired of the job, or who allowed their Party to drift back into the rut, and to become immersed again in the odds and ends of routine business, without a further thought to the campaign. Once again, we appeal to our readers in this matter. This Membership Campaign is to be the business for the Party, for the next two months. Minor matters will wait, but the great business of recruitment

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Now to get ready!

cannot wait, and the details of the job call for a mobilisation bigger and far more sustained than does a General Election. The difference is that the General Election costs money, but the Membership Campaign is a splendid paying proposition, financially, morally and materially. It is the one great job of the year. We are building the edifice which is to replace the present ramshackle Government, which is, with ordered mind and solid ranks, to dictate the conditions of the Socialist State, and which must, above all, prove itself a real democracy. Is not this end worth our full time for the next few weeks, my brothers?

And now to the preparation. In the first place we want material — membership cards, application forms, names of supporters, sustenance by way of literature, and plans for a supplementary campaign with speakers.

Get the Cards Ready.

Take cards first. Membership cards next year will be of two sorts, i.e., Men's and Women's, and notwithstanding some little hitches that will arise in practice in supplying smaller Parties, or the suggestion of one friend that this is merely a device to overstock Parties with cards, we are convinced that this is a good thing. We want to see both man and wife with a membership card, and we want to see a genuine ding-dong competition between the sexes as to which shall boast of the most members. Membership cards can be obtained now, and we strongly advise their issue to all old members as quickly as possible.

It is unfortunate that many Parties neglect to overprint their cards with the name of their Party and its Secretary. Strong Divisional Parties ought to obtain their cards well beforehand, and send same to their local printers in order to print on the face appropriate Divisional matter. Smaller Divisional Parties and most Local Parties, will find that a rubber stamp, properly used, will supply this need. Gummed labels might be used in some cases, but in any case the job should be properly and cleanly done.

Some Parties are in the habit of using the back page of the card for printing local matter. We think this is bad practice, and this last page is

best used for the member's name and address. Parties who are having the job sent to a printer can, at practically no extra cost, have suitable lines printed on. In our judgment it is unwise to issue cards without a member's name.

We also strongly advise the use of stamps as supplied by the Head Office of the Party in preference to local markings of cash. The stamps are more official and infinitely more satisfactory in use, and are a check upon contributions paid.

Membership application forms may be obtained from the Head Office of the Party, or, as will be seen from a reproduction in another part of this issue, local application forms may be printed. These forms should be got ready now, and as far as possible each Party should appoint a suitable person to take charge of applications when they come in. It should be this officer's business also to re-write the old register of members and to check off and enquire into the circumstances affecting any person who does not renew his or her membership for 1933.

The Human Material.

The actual human material for the campaign is, after all, the crux of the whole matter. Only in solid Labour quarters do we advise a door-to-door canvass, and we never advise a promiscuous distribution of application forms. Real results are only obtainable by personal invitation.

The whole strength of the Party has, during this campaign, and possibly for the next year or two, to be directed to securing a higher proportion of members from our present supporters and voters. This then is where we must look for the human material.

Parties who have got canvass records of their Municipal Elections, records of "Daily Herald" readers, or any recorded data of this kind, have a much simplified task by way of preparation. But it is not good enough just to assert that these records are in the Party's possession and to leave the matter there. Ward Committees and local workers cannot look for members while the records are in the hands of the Secretary. Nor can they conveniently take out the wall boards or marked registers that were used in the canvass. What must be done is to make a record of "Fors" and to

Now to get ready!

this end a writing-night is indicated, i.e., members should be summoned to a mass attack on the records, and set down to write, as in an election; but this time, instead of writing envelopes, they will write up the names of supporters either in lists or on single cards—preferably the latter. Neglect of this important matter will simply spoil the campaign, and workers will be looking round for material at the time when everything should be ready.

There will be some Parties who will not care to rely upon their records. There will be many more without any at all, and in every area there will be unattached supporters not recorded in any way. The problem here is how to compile a list of supporters.

A Census of Supporters.

More than once in the "Labour Organiser" we have illustrated and advocated a census of supporters. This job is not a job to be done during the campaign. It is a job which is essentially one of preparation for the campaign. And so once again we urge that it shall be attempted in all quarters NOW.

How does one begin? Let us explain once again the facts. Every member of one's Party and every one attached to it in any way will be found on examination to have some knowledge of people who are supporters, but not members. One person may know two or three non-members, another person may know fifty, but the aggregate number of non-members who are known to present members and to delegates sometimes reaches stupendous totals, and, because the information is dissipated in the way we have indicated, and is not on the records, there is a loss in effectiveness, and a definite loss of opportunity.

We know constituencies where the "atmosphere" is simply pregnant with Labour thought, and the population is overwhelmingly Labour, but the Parties have no records and consequently do not know where to look for their new members. We here suggest a method for tapping the ether, or condensing the atmosphere—whichever analogy one chooses.

In our issue for March, 1931, we printed a suitable form for conducting a census of supporters to be printed preferably on card. We advise Secretaries to look up this card, adapt it

to their use and get quantities printed NOW. We advise Parties to send these cards at once to all delegates and members, with a suitable circular. A definite urge must come from the Party to push on with this census. Holders of cards have merely to write down the names of persons who are known to them as Labour supporters, and to hand these cards in to the Secretary or other appointed officer as they are filled. There is no question of approaching the persons enumerated as yet. This work is a census pure and simple.

Mobilise For Writing Up.

As an alternative to the card, some districts may find it convenient to induce all workers to go through the register and tick off supporters. This method is not so exhaustive as the census card, because it loses sight of young people, and because of the practical difficulty of getting the register round to all workers. We prefer the card.

Now as the names come in—and they will come in—it is obvious that there is a big work of collation for somebody. And who is the somebody to be? Not the Secretary, we hope. Once again, we advise the writing-up night, and the mobilisation of pen-men and women for this job. The census, if there is some drive put into it, need not take more than a fortnight. Indeed, we prefer the census cards to be sent out with a circular definitely instructing that the cards must be back within fourteen days. The circular should mention the writing-up night, and it should be fixed at the end of the fourteen days.

The writing-up night in any Party, large or small, should, in the first place, begin with a meeting at which cards are handed in, and more cards ought to go out the same night. The mass of material has now to be digested and placed in order.

One method is for each person to take a section of the register and a few cards and to mark off in the register each name found in that particular section. The card is then passed on to another section. In practice, most cards will be found to mostly cover one polling district, though there will be stragglers.

After all, however, this is a cumbersome system, and what is far prefer-

Now to get ready!

able is that everybody should be set at work writing up the names on single cards, either record cards, which are a few shillings per thousand, or on fetch-up or canvass cards, both of which are very cheap.

There will, of course, be found many duplicates in the lists sent in, but by writing the names up on single cards, the work of elimination is afterwards simplified, and one or two workers should be set on the job of sorting out the cards into street or district order as they are written. It is these persons who will detect duplicates.

So much, then, for the work of finding the human material. We know of no better method than we have suggested; nothing more practical; nothing more simple; and nothing likely to yield such excellent returns, if only one bears in mind that the Membership Campaign is a job, not for the officers, but in which one should mobilise the whole Party. Participation in this work of preparation is the best inducement we know for inciting interest in and enthusiasm for, the actual campaign which is to follow.

The campaign itself is something we

shall deal with next month, but we have yet a few more hints to give on preparation for it.

We have already mentioned literature. But why, someone asks, mention this matter at this stage? Because the selection, purchase and distribution of suitable literature *in time* will not only secure preparedness in this direction, but avoid those hitches which always occur when things are hurried. Don't give excuses to workers that they can't canvass because no literature is available.

We consider that every person to be visited should be given a leaflet—the "Citizen" is excellent for this purpose. Therefore, if the canvass or record show an availability of 5,000 names, that quantity plus a surplus will be required; 5,000 names would justify 2,000 or even 3,000 application forms. Roughly, one should order twice the quantity of leaflets than of application forms and this rule can be worked out either for quite small areas or bigger ones.

But we go further. Every new member ought to be given a pamphlet

(Concluded on page 203.)

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Yours fraternally,

(Signed).....

Address

Distribute a reasonable number of leaflets monthly in my street.	
--	--

Address envelopes and/or record cards in my home.	
---	--

Address or fold in election committee rooms.	
--	--

Show a placard (20" x 30") in my garden where it will be seen by passers-by.	
--	--

Notify the General Secretary of the names and addresses of any persons who might join the Party if approached.	
--	--

Take office as a Street Steward to maintain contact between the Party and all members in a given street.	
--	--

Act as a Steward at public meetings and Party social functions.	
---	--

Display a card in my window at election times.	
--	--

Sell literature at public meetings.	
Assure the success of outdoor meetings by helping to form an audience round the platform at the commencement of the meeting.	
Call on electors at election times to ensure that an accurate record of Labour voters is secured.	
Call on electors on polling day to see that their votes are recorded.	
Hold myself at the disposal of the Party for service of any kind in the event of emergency or the need for speedy action.	
If my house is sufficiently near a polling booth, to offer a room to the Party as a committee room.	
Act as a distributor for the "Reading Citizen."	
In the event of additional officers being required in my ward association or women's section I am prepared to offer my services and endeavour to become an efficient officer of the Party.	

REMARKS.

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Are the supporters of the "National" in the guise of "Progressive" candidates to be given Children's Education, YOUR Health Service, and make up a properly governed community?

The problem of unemployment is confronting the community.

The Labour Councillors are taking action on the Government to renew facilities for the people.

Labour in the Corporation will continue to work which save the ratepayers the profits, and claim for themselves.

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! People have reason to grumble, for "Pro-
sponsible for so many of the difficulties

at the expense of the poorest of the

ping away in folly, luxury, armaments

Government who seek your vote under
allowed to play the skinflint with YOUR
, and the many other things that go to

ains the most serious one now
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Please instruct a collector to call weekly.

Name (*in full*)

(State Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

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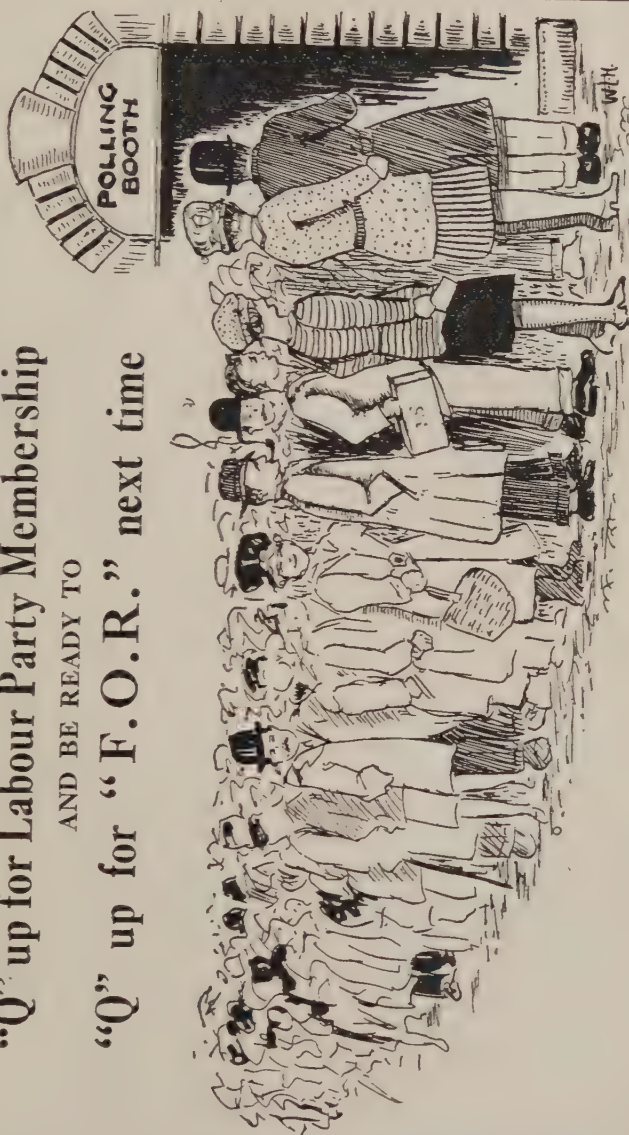
NOTE :—Your Labour Party Membership Card also entitles you to membership of the Labour Club without further charge.

Hand this card to a steward, or deliver it to A. GUEST at the above address.

“Q” up for Labour Party Membership

AND BE READY TO

“Q” up for “F.O.R.” next time



The Post Office as an Aid to Organisation

We have sometimes been surprised at the lack of knowledge among Labour people concerning many up-to-date facilities offered by the Postmaster-General, and we are sure a brief recapitulation of some of these facilities will be of advantage to our readers. Occasions constantly arise where quick communication is necessary, and especially is this the case at election times. Our article, therefore, deals principally with this type of facility, but there are many others which our readers would do well to study for themselves.

We will deal first with telephone facilities, and though we shall deal with the non-telephone subscriber presently, we will take first the man with the telephone.

The telephone subscriber has at his elbow the following services:—

1. He can receive (without cost) and send (in the majority of cases) telephone messages at any hour of the day or night.

2. He can receive (without cost) and dispatch on credit and with merely the additional cost of the telephone message, telegrams to any part of the country during ordinary telegraph hours.

3. Instead of wasting time ringing up a person's residence or place of business, only to find that person not available, he can put through a "personal call" and the connection is only then made when the person wanted is actually at the telephone and ready to speak. There is a small extra charge for this service.

4. He has at his command an Overseas telephone service, which enables him to telephone to any subscriber abroad, or even to a ship at sea. The latter must be a personal call, though other calls may be either ordinary or personal.

5. Telegrams may also be dispatched to places outside the British Isles, or for transmission to ship by wireless.

6. A telephone may be rented in rural districts by several subscribers who are linked to one circuit. The rental charge is considerably reduced.

7. There is a service of fixed time calls, deferred calls or contract calls. The first named are calls booked in

advance to be effected at or about a specified time. There is a slight extra charge for a fixed time call. Deferred calls are ordinary trunk calls booked to be put through *not before* a specified time. There is no extra charge. Contract calls provide principally for connection being made daily at specified hours. As the time permitted is longer than usual this service costs substantially more than three-minute calls.

8. Telegrams when sent may be directed to be delivered by telephone. A brief message is cheaper than the trunk call when sent this way to a distant subscriber.

9. An express letter may be dictated by telephone for delivery by special messenger. The charge is the telephone call, plus three-pence per thirty words, and one penny for ten after, plus express delivery charge. This service should be in far greater use among political agents.

10. At night another facility closely allied to the last one enables one to get over the difficulty when the last post has been missed. In such cases the subscriber rings up before midnight the nearest telegraph office which is open, generally that of the nearest big town, and dictates a letter which is *telegraphed* to the town where the addressee resides, and is delivered with the morning letters. The charge is 1/- for 36 words (an ordinary telegram is 12 words for 1/-), 1d. for every additional three words, plus the cost of the call.

Alternatively, one rings up and dictates a letter for transmission by ordinary letter post. By this service many subscribers are able to catch an outgoing mail from a neighbouring big town, or to catch a local delivery. The charge is three-pence for every thirty words, plus a penny for every additional ten words, the telephone charge and the postage.

11. The telephone subscriber may ring up requiring an express messenger to be sent to his address for the delivery by Express Messenger Service.

We have by no means exhausted the list of facilities, and one wonders why after a Party meeting at night urgent

matters are so often left to be dealt with by ordinary post the next day.

Now as to the non-telephone subscriber in a hurry. Where one cannot arrange for the use of a friend's telephone, a public call box comes in. Indeed, this country possesses a magnificent service of call boxes throughout the country. The call box user must, of course, pay the usual call box fees, in addition to the fees above-mentioned. In using a call box one should ask for the particular service required. Most of the above-mentioned facilities apply also to call boxes.

Now let us turn to postal facilities. Quite a substantial amount of postage is wasted by some secretaries because they do not use matter available for the halfpenny printed paper rate, while a number of other secretaries put the addressees to the expense of paying excess postage because they persist in sending by halfpenny post matter which is *not* available to be sent this way.

We strongly advise Secretaries of Local Parties to obtain printed forms for the notices of their meetings. In such case the details may be filled in in writing, and any quantity, large or small, may be posted in addressed envelopes for a halfpenny each. Printed postcards also "go" for halfpenny.

Where a special notice must be duplicated our readers are reminded that either duplicated matter or "carboned" matter may be sent by the halfpenny post, though a proviso exists that not less than twenty must be posted at any one time, and the circulars must be handed over the counter, together with a Post Office form applying to same. In "carboned" work the top copy must not be sent.

Now about quick delivery. The quickest way to send a letter is to telephone for an express messenger, and express the letter all the way. This method may be costly.

Another method is to take the letter to the town-head Office and to express the delivery only. This costs a minimum of sixpence.

A quicker way is to take the letter to the railway station, addressed to the Parcels Office of destination, either "To be called for," or "To be posted on arrival." A day or at least several hours may be saved by addressing a package "To be called for" and telephoning or telegraphing the addressee.

A railway letter can be taken to a station by a Post Office messenger

if handed in at an Express Delivery Office (or if one has summoned a messenger). A Post Office messenger can also be summoned to meet a train on arrival and either collect the letter for transference to another Company, if necessary, or for delivery to the addressee.

A messenger delivering an expressed letter will wait ten minutes free of charge if the words "wait reply" have been written on the communication. A little thought will show that by using the Express Service one can not only send a communication, but receive in reply either a letter or any urgent package of papers.

The Post Office have recently launched a service of business reply cards and envelopes, samples of which all our readers are probably already familiar with, having received circulars from business people enclosing same. We mention the matter here because there is little doubt that in some future by-elections someone will be smart enough to take out a license and take a preliminary plebiscite of the electors by this means.

There are many more postal facilities we would like to mention, but we content ourselves with mentioning but one. If one desires some proof of posting any particular matter, it is not necessary to pay a registration fee. A form may be obtained at the Post Office to which a halfpenny stamp has been affixed. The Post Office will stamp this form, and the same serves as proof of posting, though, of course, it is no proof of delivery.

(Concluded from page 195.)

at the start. One penny pamphlet per new member is going to bankrupt no Party, but it will go a mighty long way to cement the bargain. It will help to educate the member, give him value and incite interest for future sales.

Regarding meetings, we strongly advocate a series of meetings during the campaign, i.e., January and February. And the distribution of special invitations to supporters might well be the main means of securing attendances.

Of this more next month. We, however, mention the matter of meetings now, because local Parties should get ready, book halls and speakers, and generally plan out this side of the campaign so that meetings should synchronise with the actual period when supporters are being visited.

(Next month—Plans for the Push.)

Harvest Festival

A GOOD LINE

Our October issue contained a brief "Nutshell" announcing that the Bosworth Divisional Labour Party had decided upon the somewhat unusual expedient in Labour circles, of a Harvest Festival.

We have been interested in the organisation and success of this affair, and in response to our request for information, Mr. A. E. Bennett, the Labour agent in the Division, kindly favours us with the following notes upon the matter, which our readers will doubtless find helpful and informative. Mr. Bennett adds that "Harvest Festivals are a jolly good line and I can heartily recommend them." We endorse these sentiments.

"My E.C. had decided upon an Horticultural Exhibition as a means of raising funds for the Party, but when we met to work out details it was found that in view of the economic depression, which has affected this Division very heavily, it would not be possible to make any profit owing to the heavy expenses of prizes, etc. Being loth to leave horticultural produce altogether alone, we decided that an Harvest Festival should take its place.

"This was to take the form of a horticultural display and a tea, followed by a social gathering with speaker and entertainers, after which the produce was to be sold by auction.

"I called a meeting of local Secretaries and explained the proposal and secured their co-operation in delivering a circular appealing for gifts to all their members. We arranged also for the collection of the gifts the day before the Festival.

"I wrote the local Co-operative Society, pointing out to them that this

was a glorious opportunity for them to advertise their Radio Department by installing a radio-gram to provide music during tea and in the intervals, and also to advertise their Model Bakery, by presenting some specially designed bread to be exhibited in the midst of the gifts. They agreed to both proposals which, of course, turned out to our mutual advantage.

"We secured the services of two of our local comrades who are regular exhibitors at the local shows, to stage the gifts to the best advantage, and when that Festival opened no chapel or church in this Division has ever had such a wonderful display.

"There were three sittings for the tea, which was attended by over 400 friends, and for the Festival Meeting and sale of produce the hall was packed.

"The total profit was £13 15s. 3d., but the social value of the event was worth much more to the Movement. Everyone present was gratified and happy, for there, on show, were their own cabbage, carrots, etc., and evidence of their contribution towards the advancement of the Movement. It is said that there is joy in giving, and I can assure your readers that a great deal of joy was derived from our festival and that there is a lot more to come, for we have decided that an Annual Harvest Festival be definitely fixed in our programme.

"In connection with next year's Festival we intend to have a competition between the Local Labour Parties and the Trade Union Branches for the best collection of gifts collected and staged by the respective organisations."

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LABOUR COLLEGES.

Some Remarkable Figures.

The Annual Report just issued by the National Council of Labour Colleges shows that during the past year the N.C.L.C. conducted 704 classes with 17,173 students. In addition, the N.C.L.C. ran 159 day and week-end schools with 9,666 students, and gave 1,259 lectures to Trade Union branches and other bodies.

The Correspondence Course Department is the largest of any working-class educational organisation in the world. It dealt with 7,413 students, an increase of approximately 900 on the figure for the previous year.

Altogether the N.C.L.C. had some 60,000 students last year, studying not for individual advancement or personal culture, but for social service.

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SPEAKERS' CLASSES.

(Reprinted from "Party Organisation," price 6d.—The Labour Party).

A leader is required who will make the classes practical and interesting.

Usually from a dozen to twenty-five persons will join a class. Perhaps half-a-dozen or more of these will show aptitude and the rest may be content to pick up some hints. In any case,

they will mostly continue attending and will form an audience for the more ambitious.

Each member of the class should take the chair in turn.

It is useful to divide the time of each meeting into two parts:

- (a) a short instruction period of about a quarter-of-an-hour;
- (b) a longer period of one hour for students' own efforts.

The leader can consult books on public speaking in the public library and take notes for his remarks. George Belt, a noted Socialist propagandist, has published a book entitled "Production," published by Williams and Norgate (2s. 6d.), which contains a mass of information which a leader could draw upon for his class.

The Labour Speech and How to Make It, by Fred Montague (The Labour Party, One Penny), is most useful for students.

In a brief way the following points may be noted as a basis:—

- (1) inhale breath deeply;
- (2) speak with your deep voice;
- (3) speak distinctly and slowly;
- (4) hold your head up;
- (5) address the back row of the audience.

A good voice training exercise is to practise saying the vowels:—

Long vowels a — e — i — o — u

(ay) (ee) (eye) (o) (oo)

Short vowels a — e — i — o — u

(ah) (eh) (ih) n(o)t m(u)ch

To cultivate timbre and quality practise singing (at home) the vowels through a musical octave:—

doh ... a — e — i — o — u

ray ... a — e — i — o — u

me ... a — e — i — o — u

Practise reading aloud short passages of literature. Articulate clearly, modulate the voice, and read in such a way as to disclose to the hearer a full sense of the meaning. Above all be natural and do not affect a stilted style of speaking. Do not emulate an Oxford accent; it is not natural.

There is a sense of rhythm in good prose, and a reader should give expression to the natural lift of the words and sentences.

The following passage is often quoted as showing to a degree the innate rhythm and cadences of choice prose.

The bars indicate a succession of beats—two to a bar—and the dashes denote instinctive pause beats.

It is	now,	sixteen or	seventeen	years	since I
saw (her)	- at	Ver	sailles ;	- -	- and
surely	never	lighted on this	orb -	which she	hardly
seemed to	touch -	- a	more de	lightful	vision.
- -	- -	- I	saw her	just a	bove the ho
rizon	- -	decorating and	cheering	- the	elevated
sphere	- she	just be	gan to	move in :	- -
glittering	- like the	morning	star	- -	full of
life -	- and	splendour	- and	joy	

The leader should devote some time to explaining the construction of speeches and the making of notes. Most beginners make the error of writing an essay on what they propose to say, and often find themselves with a blank mind because they cannot remember the run of the passages. A speech should be made up of assertions. Make an assertion; write down

a few facts or points to support it. Make another assertion and again add notes. Continue the process. This is called the island method of speech-making. By glancing at his headings a speaker can jump from island to island, making the best effort on each. If he forgets something it does not destroy the speech.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Following a practice we have adopted in previous years, we have again in this issue given our readers a lesser amount of reading to occupy their time during the festive season, and we have devoted a considerable space to the reproduction of useful organising samples.

In the first place, "Doing My Bit For Socialism" is the reproduction of a card circulated by the Reading Labour Party, and is on the lines of the "What Will I Do?" card which we introduced in the first number of the "Labour Organiser." This card is a modernised edition, and our readers will be interested in some figures as to its effectiveness.

Three thousand cards were recently delivered. Of these 970 were returned, and no less than 4,850 spaces were filled in with promises of specified work. Each volunteer was listed and all of them helped in the Municipal Elections.

In a recent By-election, forty of those who filled in the space "Offering to hold myself at the disposal of the Party for service of any kind in the

event of urgency, or the need for speedy action" were written to, and asked to report for special duty. Twenty-six so reported.

This election was in a Ward which had only had one Municipal Election in twenty years. The card, which incidentally is blue, brought out the shock brigade, and magnificent work was done.

The illustration from West Bromwich is also that of a printed card; the matter of same speaks for itself. The card has been found more handy in use than application forms, both in meetings and elsewhere, and the use of the card has proved a facility in filing new members.

We also reproduce two inside pages of a Municipal Election Address used during the recent Municipal Elections at Crewe. We regret space forbids us reproducing the first and fourth page, but we think our readers will agree that an illustrated election address is a considerable improvement on orthodox letterpress matter.

APPRECIATION.

Mr. W. G. Manners, Hon. Secretary Wilts Federation of Labour Parties, writes:—

I am pleased to inform you that I have been a reader and have been in receipt of that periodical for a number

of years. I receive it through the Divisional Secretary of Chippenham D.L.P. I would not be without it, and furthermore *could* not do without it.

Thanking you for your enquiries.

Little Acts Worth Knowing

(File for Reference.)

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (EXPENSES) ACT, 1919.

(9 Geo. 5, c. 13.)

An Act to amend section five of the Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1884, and section nine of the Elections (Scotland) (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1890, as to expenses of candidates at local elections.

(16th April, 1919.)

(Preamble.)

1. EXPENSES OF LOCAL ELECTIONS.

Subsection (1) of section five of the Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1884, and subsection (1) of section nine of the Elections (Scotland) (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1890 (which prescribe the maximum amount of the expenses of candidates), shall have effect, both as originally enacted and as applied by any other Act, as though "twopence for each elector" were substituted for "threepence for each elector."

2. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the Local Elections (Expenses) Act, 1919.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Our readers will remember that the scale of expenses permitted in Municipal and County Council Elections (these being the only elections to which the above provisions apply) amount in the first place to £25. If the number of electors in the Borough or Ward exceeds five hundred, an additional amount of twopence for each elector over and above the first five hundred is permitted.

PARLIAMENT (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) ACT, 1918.

(8 & 9 Geo. V. c. 47.)

An Act to amend the Law with respect to the Capacity of Women to sit in Parliament.

(21st November, 1918.)

1. A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected to or sitting or voting as a Member of the Commons House of Parliament.
2. This Act may be cited as the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Prior to the above Act, and notwithstanding the passing of the People Act, 1918, which first gave women the vote, women were not entitled to sit in Parliament. We published last month the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Act, 1907, which conferred on women a qualification to become elected to County and Borough Councils.

So far as Urban and Rural District Councils and Parish Councils are concerned the Local Government Act, 1894, laid it down that "no person shall be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected." This was the first statutory enactment making a married woman eligible for a Municipal office.

THE POOR LAW ACT, 1927.

(17 & 18 Geo. 5, c. 14.)

8. PAID OFFICERS, ETC., INCAPABLE OF SERVING AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF A COUNTY OR COUNTY BOROUGH.

- (1) No paid officer engaged in the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor, nor any person who, having been a paid officer, has been dismissed within five years previously from office under the provisions of this Act, or any other Act repealed by this Act, shall be capable of serving as a member of the council of a county or county borough.
- (2) No person receiving any fixed salary or emolument from so much of the general rate levied within a county or county borough as is applicable to the relief of the poor shall be capable of serving as a member of the council of that county or county borough.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Outline of Economics," price 2/6, hard board (cloth 3/6). N.C.L.C. Publishing Society, Ltd., 15 South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

The new *Plebs Outline of Economics* is a book that describes the economic system in such a way that the average person can understand with ease and speed. Every worker would do well to be familiar with its chapters on, for example, "Money and its Functions," "Industrial Crises," "Internationalisation of Capital" and "Recent Developments in Capitalism." The *Outline* is a very readable book on a very important subject.

"An Outline of Economic Geography," by J. F. Horrabin, price 2/6, hard board (cloth 3/6). N.C.L.C. Publishing Society, Ltd., 15 South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.3.

This is another new *Plebs* book and is a completely revised edition of J. F. Horrabin's famous *Outline of Economic Geography*. The original edition of this book was published in as many as seven different languages by working-class organisations throughout the world.

"What interest has a book on Economic Geography for the average man or woman?" it may well be asked. True, the title suggests a book for school-boys or international traders. There is, however, *Economic Geography and Economic Geography*. The *Economic Geography* this book deals with is the kind of stuff without which we can understand neither the past nor the present. The man or woman who does not find this book interesting, if not actually exciting, is "dead from the neck upwards."

The two *Outlines* can play a very

useful part in the war of ideas in which Labour is engaged, and we hope our readers will both read and sell these books.

"Printers Press and Profits," price twopence (post free 3d.). The Labour Research Department, 60 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1.

This pamphlet deals with the present financial position of a large number of newspaper and general printing companies. The story unfolded is an amazing one, showing that many of the firms dealt with have enjoyed a period of glowing prosperity. The process towards amalgamation, the issue of large sums in bonus shares, profits made, etc., is exhaustively dealt with. This pamphlet will be invaluable not only to those engaged in the printing industry in all its branches, but to those who take an interest in all aspects of capitalist industry to-day.

Quantities of this pamphlet are on sale at 7/- per 50, or 13/- per 100.

"Wages and Profits on the Railways," price one penny. Labour Research Department, 60 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1.

This is another addition to the well-known series, "Labour White Papers," published by the Labour Research Department. It deals with the present financial organisation of the railways presented in a simple, easy way so that he who runs may read and understand. The chief figures given in our recent study ("Ten Years of Railway Finance") are given and where necessary brought up-to-date, and contain much new material to show the effects of pooling. It explains, moreover, the effects of the proposed Railway Companies' wage cuts and the results of the pooling schemes. No worker can afford to be without this little pamphlet. The terms for quantities are:— 3/10½ for 50; 7/3 for 100.

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